

Amendments To The Claims

The listing of claims presented below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A device for protecting a fibre fiber line against destruction by laser radiation, comprising:

a section of an optical fibre fiber line having a first core diameter with a constant diameter throughout the length of said section, said first section of said optical fiber line having:

optical fiber cladding over a first section of said fiber line that is of a
second diameter greater than said first core diameter; and

optical fiber cladding over a second section of said fiber line that is of a
third diameter that is less than said second diameter but greater than said first
core diameter, said second section being adjacent to said first section.

and a cladding of said optical fibre section, said cladding having at least at one
part of length L \geq 10.D of said optical fibre section a cross-section
parameter d in the range D< d \leq min (4D, 40 .mu.m), where D is the mode field
diameter.

2. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein
said optical fibre fiber cladding is made of silica based glass.

3. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein said optical fibre fiber section is formed directly in the fibre fiber line to be protected.

4. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein said optical fibre fiber section is further included into the fibre fiber line to be protected, e.g. by splicing or connecting by optical connectors.

5. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein said optical fibre fiber section is cylindrical, with the core having a constant diameter throughout the length of said section, and the cladding diameter d of the optical fibre fiber section at least at one part of length $L \geq 10 \cdot D$ of said optical fibre fiber section being in the range $D < d \leq \min(4D, 40 \mu m)$, where D is the mode field diameter.

6. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 5, characterized in that wherein said optical fibre fiber section is formed directly in the fibre fiber line to be protected.

7. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein said optical fibre fiber section is supplied to further into the fibre fiber line to be protected, e.g. by splicing or connecting by optical connectors.

8. (New) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein said optical fibre

fiber section cladding has at least at section with a length $L \geq 10 \cdot D$ and a cross-section parameter d in the range $D < d \leq \min(4D, 40m\mu)$, where D is the mode field diameter.